

REMARKS

Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing remarks.

Claims 1-12, 19, 20, 31-34, and 43 are pending, with claims 1, 7, 31, and 43 being independent. In this amendment, Applicant has amended claim 31 and canceled claims 35 and 39-42. Claim 31 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 35. No new matter has been introduced.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-12, 19, 20, and 43 are allowed and that claim 35 recites allowable subject matter. Claims 31-34 and 39-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (U.S. Patent No. 6,014,680) in view of Nakao (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,697). Applicant traverses these rejections, and yet to expedite prosecution, has amended claim 31 and canceled claims 39-42, thereby obviating the rejections. Specifically, claim 35 was indicated as allowable and objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Applicant has canceled claim 35 and amended claim 31 to include the recitations of claim 35. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claim 31 and its dependent claims.


Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance and requests allowance.


Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/17/06

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